

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 4, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
James Workman
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS:

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and introduced those in attendance.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Griffin noted that Saturday's Christmas Parade was televised and will be rebroadcast during the Winnacunnet High School football time slot on Channel 22.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. JOHN HANGEN - FEMA FUNDING

Public Works Director John Hangen came before the Board to discuss FEMA funding for road repair work on Drakeside and Mill Roads. The streets sustained a significant amount of damage caused by the Mother's Day storm. Since the storm Mr. Hangen worked with soil scientists, engineers, Fay Spofford and Thorndike (FST) before the project went to bid. There was only one contractor who bid on the project for a total price of \$225,800. The complete project is estimated at a total cost of \$269,800 (contractor bid - \$225,800, soils investigation & engineering \$22,000 plus site inspection services \$22,000). Mr. Hangen explained that it is likely FEMA will fund up to 75% of eligible costs; which would account for approximately \$202,350, leaving the Town responsible for about \$67,450. At this point the State has not made a commitment to contribute but if the Legislature approves their 12.5% share, the Town portion would be \$33,725 less. Mr. Hangen recommended that if the Board decides to proceed with the road repair the full \$67,450 should be budgeted for in the event that the State is not able to provide funding.

A public hearing will need to be scheduled in order for the Board to accept funding. Given that it is very late in the year to be starting a road construction project, it would be necessary to start immediately before the asphalt plants close for the season. Mr. Hangen was uncertain to whether or not the contractor would be willing to honor the same bid in the springtime since there are many factors affecting the project such as digging deeper

trenches. He is also uncertain if the duration of FEMA funding could be extended into the spring. Mr. Hangen requested that a decision be made before the end of the meeting so that he has direction on the project.

Mr. Lally voiced his concern about oil prices going up by next spring which would increase the cost of the project.

Mr. Moore is uncomfortable with the idea of accepting funding for a project of this magnitude without a public hearing.

Mr. Schwotzer recommended the Board proceed with the project so the repairs can be done as soon as possible and the Town can take advantage of utilizing federal funds.

The Board requested Mr. Hangen seek confirmation from the contractor on his willingness to hold the bid until spring and if FEMA and the State are able to extend the funding duration.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing to accept Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds in the amount of \$202,350 for the eligible expenses to repair the damage to Drakeside and Mill Road. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

PUBLIC HEARING – 7:30PM

To accept NH Department of Environmental Services State Grant for Sewage Treatment Works Project No. C-715 under RSA 486 in the amount of \$1,385,015 to be paid in twenty (20) annual installments.

No public comment.

Staff could not find any supporting documents indicating that a public hearing had been held in the past for this particular grant.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept and authorize Mr. Gearreald to negotiate and sign the NH Department of Environmental Services State Grant certification for Sewage Treatment Works Project No. C-715 under RSA 486 in the amount of \$1,385,015 to be paid in twenty (20) annual installments. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – NOVEMBER 27, 2006

Page 3 – Under Town Manager's Report – second last paragraph, 2005 should be 2006 – amendment is as follows: "...that currently, 2006's overall spending is below..."

Minutes stand as corrected.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gearreald met with School Superintendent Jim Gaylord, Wednesday morning at the site of the Winnacunnet Road/Park Avenue intersection to review the remaining problems as we have perceived them. It is believed that this site view was beneficial and that remediation will be forthcoming.

Mr. Gearreald reported that he has signed the contract with Bell & Flynn for the paving of the Island Path parking lot. It is anticipated that the work will commence this week.

Mr. Gearreald denied two Fire Union grievances last week concerning changes that will go into effect in 2007 in the "Slice of Life" health management program that is offered separately from the Health Insurance Program by the Local Government Center.

The Budget Committee will be conducting its final session to review the Town budget on Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Moderator Robert Casassa and Mr. Gearreald have been discussing the details as to the Deliberative Session, scheduled for the Winnacunnet High School Auditorium on Saturday, February 3, 2007 (alternative snow date February 10, 2007). Mr. Casassa informed the Interim Town Manager that no lunch will be served due to the relocation of the cafeteria within the High School to a location that is not convenient to the auditorium. Mr. Gearreald has confirmed the setup time availability for our Cable Committee the day before.

The flu shot clinic was held on November 29th and the Seacoast Visiting Nurses Association was very pleased with the turnout. Approximately 100 people were inoculated.

Maureen Duffy is working on the bids for printing the Annual Town Report and would like to speak to the Board about that at the December 11th meeting.

Mr. Gearreald requested a Selectmen non-meeting with counsel after this meeting to discuss some litigation matters.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Workman thanked Mr. Gearreald and staff for ensuring the flashing light at the spur road was repaired.

The Board is anxious to have the spur road situation complete as the problem has been on going for over a year.

1. 2007 WARRANT – FURTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Gearreald reported that he has removed the following articles from the Warrant:

- § Article 9 regarding the repaving of the Island Path Parking Lot as the project is currently in progress.
- § Article 11 regarding the appropriation from the special revenue fund made up of 20% of gross parking lots funds allocated to the Hampton Beach Village District for the purpose of installing the infrastructure for ornamental street lights.

- § Alternative Article 15 that included funding requests for all the social services combined that received money last year and have requested funding this year in writing. Mrs. Bridle-Russell questioned if the social service agencies have been notified that the Selectmen are sponsoring social service warrant articles on their behalf. Mr. Gearreald noted that a letter was mailed in October, and we are in the process of getting another letter out to those who have not responded. Article 29 will be removed as Rockingham County Community Action will be required to submit a petitioned article (not supported by the voters in 2006).

Mr. Gearreald explained that the Hampton Beach Village District receives 20% of the gross revenue from the parking lots as permitted by Article 41 of the 1996 Town Meeting in a special account for the purpose of purchasing appropriate capital items. To allocate this money the voters must support the specific capital request via a warrant article.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

None

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. DRAFT 2007 DEFAULT BUDGET – MIKE SCHWOTZER

Finance Director Mike Schwotzer presented a draft copy of the 2007 Default Budget. He noted that he has made the necessary adjustments according to the RSA's for items under contract. He pointed out that the grand total for the default general fund has been set at \$24,332,006. We are showing a \$714,194 increase in 2007 in comparison to the 2006 default due to uncontrollable expenses such as retirement, health care, workers' compensation, hydrants, debt service as well as the Library's step plan for wages and benefits.

A draft of the 2007 default budget was requested by the Budget Committee to be provided on Tuesday, December 5. It is in draft form and it can be refined before the public hearing in January.

Mr. Lally asked if the debt service adjustment figure of \$120,472 was similar in past years. Mr. Schwotzer explained that it depends on the year but it should remain fairly consistent for the next few years.

2. AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER RENEWAL OF HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE

Mr. Gearreald received a letter from the Local Government Center (LGC) regarding the employee benefit program renewal rates for the period from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. These rates have been developed by the LGC HealthTrust's consulting actuaries and underwriters using relative criteria and approval by the LGC. Mr. Gearreald noted that there is no change to the dental program; however there is a 16.7% increase for medical coverage.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to authorize Interim Town Manager Gearreald to sign the medical and dental agreement with the Local Government Center HealthTrust to execute and deliver any and all documents necessary to effectuate the enrollment of Hampton employees into the plan. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Bridle-Russell mentioned that State Representative Nancy Stiles and School Board Chairman sancy Nickerson would like to meet with the Selectmen to discuss an educational funding bill currently being considered at the Legislature this year.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to authorize a joint meeting with the School Board and Representative Stiles. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

No consent items.

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to authorize a joint meeting with the School Board and Representative Stiles. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to have a non-meeting at the conclusion of tonight's meeting. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Workman MOTIONED under RSA 91-A:3, II, (b) to have a nonpublic meeting regarding personnel. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman